

Bike Lane Safety Tips

Safety Tips for Bicyclists

- Traffic laws apply to bicyclists: this includes stopping at red lights, obeying right-of-way, signaling, etc.
- Wear a helmet.
- See, be seen and be heard: wear reflective clothing, use blinking reflective lighting, and use a bell or horn.
- Ride right: when you ride to the right of traffic, drivers behind you only have to slow to your speed and they have much longer to react.
- Don't ride on the sidewalk: when you come off the sidewalk to cross the street you're invisible to motorists.
- Don't hug the curb: ride further left within the bike lane to avoid doors of parked cars, pedestrians walking between cars, and giving drivers a better chance of seeing you.
- Pass on the left whenever possible.
- Remember that motorists will cross the bike lane to park and pull in and out of driveways.
- Bicyclists may only travel more than two abreast in a bike lane if there is sufficient space. However, they must be in single file when passing vehicles, pedestrians or other bicyclists.

Safety Tips for Motorists

- Be careful when passing cars stopped for a left turn – slow down and look out for bicyclists.
- Look carefully for bicyclists before opening doors next to moving traffic or before turning right.
- Safely merge toward the curb or into the bike lane.
- Do not overtake a bicyclist just before making a right turn. Merge first, then turn.
- Do not assume cyclists will ride as far to the right as possible. Smart cyclists plot a line straight down the roadway 3-4 feet from the curb or parked cars. This allows them space to avoid road hazards and to be more visible to motorists and pedestrians.
- Cyclists are required to use bike lanes, but may enter into your lane in order to execute a left turn.

What is a bike lane?

A bike lane is a portion of a roadway or the shoulder that has been designated by striping, signing and pavement markings for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists.

**Bike and parking lanes.**

The bike lane is located between the parking lane and the travel lane.

Part-time bike lanes are those where parking is allowed during part of the day; at other times, parking is prohibited and the lanes are used by bicyclists.

The striping of separate lanes for parking and biking encourages motorists to park closer to the curb, especially when they need to avoid an opening car door. The striping discourages motorists from thinking that the shared bike/parking lane is in fact a travel lane for motor vehicles.

Motorists are not allowed to travel or park in the bike lanes, but are allowed to cross them when turning or when entering or exiting a legal parking space.